

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
/077 W

-----060494 231632Z /43

O R 231607Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5473
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10443

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: LOW-SITHOLE MEETING

1. BY COINCIDENCE, NDABANINGI SITHOLE WAS IN LONDON DURING AMBASSADOR LOW'S TRANSIT HERE AND AN INFORMAL MEETING WAS ARRANGED ON JUNE 22. MESSRS. MKONO AND CHAKODZI ACCOMPANIED SITHOLE; FRIEDMAN AND SEITZ FROM THE EMBASSY ALSO ATTENDED.

2. LOW DESCRIBED FOR SITHOLE THE PROGRESS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND THE PROBABLE SCHEDULE FOR A SECOND ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS. WHILE THE ROAD TOWARDS A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN TRAVELLED MANY TIMES. LOW SAID, THE CURRENT ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORT IS A FRESH CONCEPT THAT SEEMS TO BE GATHERING MOMENTUM. SITHOLE REPEATED MANY OF THE CONCERNS HE HAD ALREADY CONVEYED TO
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GRAHAM AT THE FCO OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS. HE EXPRESSED HIS ANXIETY THAT SMITH MAY AGAIN REJECT AN AGREED SETTLEMENT OR THAT "OTHERS" MIGHT IN THE END REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE. HE ALSO UNDERScoreD HIS SUPPORT FOR A COMMONWEALTH PEACEKEEPING FORCE DURING THE TRANSITION PHASE. SITHOLE ACCUSED NKOMO OF BUILDING UP ZAPU FORCES IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER RHODESIA AFTER A SETTLEMENT.

3. SITHOLE SAID HE HAD NOW COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS RETURN TO RHODESIA. HE WILL ANNOUNCE HIS INTENTION NEXT WEEK, TRAVEL TO NAIROBI JULY 3. AND THEN ON TO SALISBURY THE NEXT DAY. HE ADDED THAT A NUMBER OF HIS SOURCES, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE. WERE NOW CONVINCED OF SMITH'S SINCERITY.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING. SITHOLE RAISED THE "PRACTICAL PROBLEM" OF AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ZAPU SUPPORTERS WHO ARE CROSSING OVER TO THE SITHOLE CAMP. HE MENTIONED A "COMMANDER", TRAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION, WHO WITH FIVE FOLLOWERS HAD RECENTLY SWITCHED ALLEGIANCE. BUT, SITHOLE COMPLAINED, HE LACKS THE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THESE REFUGEES FROM ZAPU, AND HE HOPED THE UNITED STATES COULD BE HELPFUL. LOW RESPONDED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN EXERCISE DEPENDS ON ITS EVEN-HANDEDNESS, AN EXPLANATION WHICH SITHOLE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PROTEST.

BREWSTER

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Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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